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26 May 1953

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Planning*

SUBJECT: Collection Methods Research

1. At Wednesday's dinner for Lofty there was talk of, among other things, a need for developing better methods of acquiring intelligence. I understood General Cabell to suggest the formation of an agency group to study this problem, and you to undertake to prepare recommended organization and agenda. The following premature thoughts are offered for what they may be worth:

a. Agenda

- 1) Inventory of present methods.
- 2) Inventory of methods previously proposed but either not adopted or not implemented.
- 3) Inventory of methods not previously proposed in any formal way, but with potential, no matter how remote.
- 4) Analysis of these inventories to establish relative likelihood of success, cost, and suggested responsible agency or office.
- 5) Study of need for CIA organizational changes.

b. Organization

A Collection Methods Committee, established by the DCI and responsible to him, the Committee to be chaired by a DD/P designee, and have as members representatives from OSI, ORR, ONE, TSS, FDD, OO-C and OCI. The Committee would meet weekly to consider items on the proposed agenda, rendering reports to the DCI. The members would continue their basic duties, as in the case of PRC, and (like PRC) should have positions of responsibility in their offices (e.g., [redacted]/OSI; Chief, Analysis Division/ORR; [redacted]/ONE; Deputy Chief, TSS; [redacted]/FDD; [redacted] OO/C; [redacted]/OCI). They should be able to obtain from their offices the work called for by the Committee. The Committee should also have an Executive Secretary free of other duties, with full power to pursue the work of the Committee wherever it may lead, within or without CIA [redacted]

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2. I must say I felt [REDACTED] to be nearest the point when he indicated we were really dilating on multiple methods of collection. Perhaps what we really will ultimately need is a DD/C (collection), consisting of what is now DD/P (less PP, PM, and CE) and OO-C, and with control over the Agency's interest in the collection aspects of NSA, the IAC agencies, and the Foreign Service.

3. I might also say that to me the question "what we collect" is more important than "how we collect it", and, in fact, largely determines the latter. On both of these subjects we probably do not need new organizations but rather increased use of those we have (e.g., IPC, ONE programming, EIC, SEC).

JAMES Q. REBER  
Assistant Director  
Intelligence Coordination

OIC/JQR:br (26 May 1953)

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